

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): An optical attenuator comprising:

an optical fiber comprising an attenuating part which is bent to obtain a desired attenuation; ~~and~~

a fixture fixing the optical fiber thereto; and

a housing having a cover and a frame to receive the fixture therein, wherein

the fixture comprises a rear supporting portion, a central retaining portion, and

two holders for engaging with two corresponding optical connectors, respectively.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 1, further comprising two optical connectors respectively aligned with opposite ends of the optical fiber, the optical connectors engaging with the fixture.

Claim 3 (original): The optical attenuator as described in claim 2, wherein each of the optical connectors is a subscriber connector plug connector.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 2, wherein the optical connectors are partially engaged in the fixture housing.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 1, wherein the attenuating part of the optical fiber is configured to be ~~generally~~ substantially semicircular.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 1, wherein the attenuating part of the optical fiber is configured to be generally substantially coiled.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

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Claim 9 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 1, wherein each of the two holders has a through hole for passage of the optical fiber, and the fixture defines two grooves in communication with the through holes of the two holders to retain ~~retaining~~ corresponding parts of the optical fiber, respectively.

Claims 10-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): An optical attenuator comprising:
an optical fiber comprising an attenuating part bent to obtain a desired attenuation;
a fixture fixing the optical fiber thereto and comprising two front holders;
and
two optical connectors respectively aligned-aligning with opposite ends of the optical fiber and engaging with the holders of the fixture, respectively; and
a housing including a cover and a frame;
wherein the fixture is received in the housing ~~the attenuating part of the optical fiber is bent such that a desired attenuation is obtained.~~

Claim 13 (original): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein each of the optical connectors is a subscriber connector plug connector.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein the optical connectors are partially engaged in the housing fixture.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

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Claim 16 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein the attenuating part of the optical fiber is configured to be substantially generally-semicircular.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein the attenuating part of the optical fiber is configured to be substantially generally-coiled.

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein each of the holders has a through hole for passage of the optical fiber, and the fixture defines two grooves in communication with the through holes of the two holders to retain retaining corresponding parts of the optical fiber respectively.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method of making an attenuator comprising the steps of:

providing a pair of juxtaposed fiber connectors with mating ports facing to a same direction;

connecting rear ends of said pair of connectors with an optical fiber;

securing the fiber in a fixture position around two opposite end portions

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thereof;

forming a curved portion between said two end portions;

adjusting radii or turns of said curved portion for obtaining a desired attenuation value; and

permanently fixing said curved portion to a supporting portion by adhesive in position without changing a configuration thereof; and

packaging said fixture and said fiber connectors in a housing having a frame and a cover mating therewith.